

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ABUD, UN

SUBJECT: UN BUDGET

REF: A) USUN 2647, B) GENEVA 5171, C) GENEVA 5229,
D) GENEVA 5255.

SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF QTE WESTERN BIG FIVE UNQTE HELD
SECOND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROPOSED COORDINATED DEMARCHES
TO SYG WALDHEIM ON UN BUDGET. THEY ALL SAW PROBLEMS IN
PROPOSED GENEVA GROUP MEETING IN NEW YORK ON THIS SUBJECT.
END SUMMARY

1. AT UK REQUEST A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE QTE
WESTERN BIG FIVE UNQTE (US, UK, FRANCE, FRG, AND JAPAN) ON THE
UN BUDGET WAS HELD JULY 2.

2. PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT RESULTS OF
JUNE 29-30 GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING, BUT HAD
HEARD ENOUGH TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUGGESTION THAT A
GENEVA GROUP MEETING HE HELD IN NEW YORK IN OCTOBER TO DISCUSS A
FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR BUDGET LIMITATION. WE SHARED WITH THE
OTHERS CONTENTS OF REFTEL B. REFTEL C WITH TEXT OF FRENCH
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PROPOSAL HAD NOT YET REACHED US. (WE LATER DISTRIBUTED IT TO

OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP.) FRENCH REP (NAUDY) WAS SURPRISED AND PERPLEXED THAT FRANCE HAD PUT FORWARD A PROPOSAL, IT BEING HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WOULD BE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT GENEVA AMONG REPS OF WESTERN BIG FIVE ABOUT US IDEA OF A COORDINATED APPROACH TO SYG, AND NO MORE. HE PLANNED TO TELEPHONE PARIS EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR DETAILS.

3. EVERYONE PRESENT EXPRESSED DISAPPROVAL IN VARYING DEGREES (UK AND JAPAN MOST OF ALL) OF IDEA THAT GENEVA GROUP SHOULD MEET IN NEW YORK, PARTICULARLY DURING GA WHEN DELEGATIONS HERE ARE FULLY CONSUMMED WITH FIFTH COMMITTEE AND ACABQ BUSINESS AND WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO CONSULT THOROUGHLY IN WEOG AND EC-9 AND PERHAPS NOW ALSO WESTERN BIG FIVE FRAMEWORK. SUGGESTION WAS MADE BY FRG (SCHMIDT) THAT A VISIT BY GENEVA GROUP IN EARLY SEPTEMBER BEFORE GA BEGINS MIGHT BE LESS IMPRACTICAL. USUN VIEWS ON THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND THE IDEA OF GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATION ON IT HERE WILL BE SUBMITTED IN SEPTEL.

4. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT EVENTS IN GENEVA THIS WEEK SHOULD NOT DEFLECT PLANS TO MAKE COORDINATED APPROACH TO SYG HERE, BUT THAT CONFIRMATION FROM ALL FIVE CAPITALS ON THIS POINT WAS NEEDED. IT WAS AGREED WE SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT APPROACHES BE MADE MORE OR LESS IN THE LAST HALF OR THE LAST TEN DAYS OF JULY, AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THEY WERE NOT BUNCHED TOO CLOSELY TOGETHER. AVAILABILITY OF PERMREPS WOULD BE A FACTOR IN DECIDING WHEN TO GO TO SYG. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT APPROACHES WOULD BE COORDINATED BUT NOT IDENTICAL.

5. VIEWS WERE EXHCNGED ON THE TYPE OF MESSAGE WHICH SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO SYG. UK (STUART) PASSED OUT A TWO-PAGE PAPER WHICH SHOWS THE KIND OF BACK-STIFFENING POINTS IT FAVORS MAKING TO THE SYG. IT REFERS TO (1) UN PASSIVITY IN FACE OF EXTRA COSTS CAUSED BY INFLATION AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY, (2) QTE FLAGRANT LOBBYING BY SENIOR SECRETARIAT MEMBERS UNQTE RESULTING IN GA DECISIONS LEADING TO UNWARANTED BUDGET GROWTH, (3) PATENTLY EXCESSIVE SALARIES OF GENERAL SERVICE STAFF IN GENEVA, AND (4) TO FACT THAT TOO MAY APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY. PAPER URGES SYG TO EXERT HIS AUTHORITY MORE FORCEFULLY AND REMINDS CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM THAT PATIENCE OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTIORS IS NOT UNLIMITED.

6. JAPAN (AKASHI) SAID ITS TENTATIVE THOUGHT IS TO COVER FOUR MAJOR POINTS IN DEMARCHE ON SYG: (1) GROWTH RATE SHOULD BE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE (I.E., WE SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT THE LIKES OF 38 PERCENT ANY MORE, WHICH WAS HOW MUCH THE INITIAL 1976-77 BUDGET EXCEEDED THE INITIAL 1974-75 FIGURE), (2) DUPLICATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED WHEREVER IT IS FOUND, IN TERMS OF NEW ORGANIZATIONS,

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCES, ETC. (WHY FOR INSTANCE ARE THERE THREE SECRETARIAT UNITS DEALING WITH AFRICA?)? (3) SYG HAS AND MUST EXERT HIS AUTHORITY TO CONTROL THE UN BUDGET -- NOTE THE RECENT PROBLEMS WITH UNCTAD AND UNIDO AS WELL AS THE GENERAL QUESTION OF REGIONAL STRUCTURES; (4) NO CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN THE THREE CRITERIA TO DETERMINE FORMULA FOR EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROFESSIONAL POSTS. (AKASHI SAID HE HAD HEARD SECRETARIAT WOULD PROBABLY PROPOSE INCREASING MEMBERSHIP FACTOR FROM 1-6 TO 2-7).

7. FRG (SCHMIDT) HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED DEFINITE POINTS BUT AGREED WITH MOST OF THOSE PRESENTED BY OTHERS. EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT WE WOULD GET VERY FAR WITH THE NO REAL GROWTH CONCEPT AND THOUGHT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON PERSONNEL, I.E., NO CREATION OF NEW POSTS. ALSO THOUGHT SYG SHOULD BE TOLD THAT IF EXCESSIVE BUDGET GROWTH CONTINUES, IT WILL HAVE DAMAGING EFFECT ON THE READINESS OF MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SUPPORT OTHER SUBSTANTIVE PROGRAMS. REFERRING TO ARGUMENT MADE BY POLAND IN COMMITTEE OF 54 THAT DELAYING PAYMENT IS JUSTIFIED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE CONTROL BY SYG OVER BUDGET, FRG SUGGESTED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF US COULD SAY TO SYG QTE IN VIEW OF SOVIET BLOC ATTITUDE, HOW LONG CAN YOU EXPECT US TO GO ON PAYING PROMPTLY? UNQTE

8. FRENCH REP SEVERAL TIMES COMMENTED NERVOUSLY ON POLITICAL DIFFICULTY OF SOME OF THE PROPOSALS DISCUSSED BY OTHERS BUT MAINLY SEEMED TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY FACT THAT A FRENCH INITIATIVE HAD BEEN TAKEN AT GENEVA OF WHICH HE WAS UNAWARE.

9. US DISTRIBUTED CHECK LIST OF POSSIBLE SPECIFIC POINTS FOR RAISING WITH SYG OR AT 31ST GA. SOME OF THEM WERE ALREADY COVERED BY OTHER REPS; OTHERS SUCH AS TRAVEL LIMITATIONS, DOCUMENTATION CUTS, POSTPONEMENT IN PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT
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SEEMED REASONABLE TO OTHERS PRESENT.

10. AT MEETING'S END UK BROUGHT UP A PERSONNEL MATTER, TRUSTING GROUP WOULD CONSIDER IT WITHIN PURVIEW OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID UK HOPED ALL FIVE WOULD SUPPORT APPOINTMENT OF ANTHONY MANGO (UK NATIONAL WHO IS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ACABQ) TO REPLACE LAVAU (FRANCE), DIRECTOR OF BUDGET DIVISION, WHEN LATTER LEAVES NEXT YEAR. NAUDY IMMEDIATELY OBJECTED THAT GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND PERSONAL VIEWS HAD TO BE KEPT STRICTLY SEPARATE, ADDING, HOWEVER THAT HE RESPECTED MANGO ENORMOUSLY. STUART SAID THERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE A QUID PRO QUO FOR FRANCE, WHICH COULD COUNT ON UK SUPPORT FOR A SUITABLE FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR A COMPARABLE JOB. US REP SAID WE THOUGHT HIGHLY OF MANGO, COULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT HIM AND BELIEVED THAT PERTINENT PERSONNEL QUESTIONS COULD BE

DISCUSSED BY WESTERN BIG FIVE. EVERYONE IN ROOM WAS AWARE
WITHOUT SAYING SO THAT FRENCH HAVE ALREADY SENT A LETTER TO
SYG BACKING THEIR NATIONAL DURAND (CHIEF, PROGRAM ANALYSIS
UNIT UNDER LAVAU) AS SUCCESSOR TO LAVAU, AND EVERYONE SHARES
VIEW THAT DURAND WOULD BE A DISASTER IN THE JOB.
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